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FRISCO FIRE FIGHTERS ANSWER “CALL FOR HELP” FROM FEMA; PREPARE TO DEPLOY TO KATRINA RAVAGED AREAS

(September 1, 2005) The Frisco Fire Department is answering the “call for help” from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) by preparing to send three, two-person teams to the region ravaged by Hurricane Katrina.

On Wednesday, FEMA and DHS sent an urgent message, via the International Association of Fire Chiefs, calling for 1,000 two-person teams made up of career firefighters.

Numerous firefighters volunteered. The six firefighters who will be initially deployed include Deputy Chief Paul Siebert and Lt. Gordon Holbrook along with Brian McClusky, John Stewart, Travis Level and Allan Jones, who are all firefighters/paramedics.

“Firemen, like all our citizens, want to help,” said Chief Mack Borchardt, Frisco Fire Department. “FEMA has requested we do so (help) in an orderly fashion and this is the first opportunity we’ve had to do that,” added Borchardt. He also says the department is prepared to offer more assistance in the form of equipment and people, as requested.

The firefighters will be assisting FEMA by distributing information, providing minimal first aid, taking reports and helping Katrina victims by giving them information about receiving Federal assistance.

The six Frisco firefighters have submitted their deployment applications and are awaiting FEMA’s approval. If selected, the Frisco firefighters will travel to Atlanta for further training and specific assignments. Once selected, Chief Borchardt expects his department teams will deploy within 24 hours of receiving notice. The assignments are expected to last at least thirty days.

“One of the things that has made this country great is we’re all Americans and we all pull together during times of crisis,” said Chief Borchardt.

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